

Minutes  
International Relations Committee of the Legislative  
Council

February 21, 2007

Members present:

Senator Daryl Beall, Chairperson  
Senator Nancy Boettger  
Senator Gene Fraise  
Senator Larry McKibben

Representative McKinley Bailey, Vice Chairperson  
Representative Rich Andersen  
Representative Helen Miller  
Representative Rod Roberts

- I. Procedural Business
- II. Introductions and Discussion
- III. Final comments

I. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS.

CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beall at 12:13 p.m. in Committee Room 24 of the Statehouse and was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS and DISCUSSION

Chairman Beall noted that he invited the Governor's office to send a representative to the meeting and introduced Emily Hajek.

Chairman Beall introduced Ann Schodde, Executive Director of the United States Center for Citizen Diplomacy.

Ms. Schodde noted the background and history of the United States Center for Citizen Diplomacy. The Center is now established with a small office on 5<sup>th</sup> street in downtown Des Moines and has a board of directors. She noted the board first met on February 2, 2007. She also noted that current state legislators: Senators Beall and Boettger and Representatives Dandekar and Raecker are board members.

Ann Schodde presented the goals of the Center. She noted the Center would highlight and promote the work of Organizations like the Iowa Council for International Understanding (ICIU) and individual Americans volunteer in international relations. Senator Fraise noted that he met

with Ukrainian farmers recently. Ms. Schodde responded that this is an example of what the Center intends to highlight.

Ms. Schodde suggested that American foreign policy is having difficulty and that no one administration is to blame. The part of American diplomacy that could be strengthened is the people to people diplomacy. This citizen diplomacy needs to be focused on and enhanced. She noted that currently anywhere from 600,000 to one million Americans are involved in citizen diplomacy. The Center's goal is to increase those numbers.

Ms. Schodde introduced board member Charles Montgomery, senior attorney at MidAmerican Energy. He noted the goals and why the Center was important to the state of Iowa. Ms. Schodde also introduced Jessica Rowe, a consultant for the Center. Ms. Rowe commented on the projects that the Center has already completed and those currently in the planning stages. She cited several examples such as an awards ceremony in Des Moines last fall and an Educational Institute for teachers this summer. Brice Oakley is the United States Center for Citizen Diplomacy's lobbyist.

Ms. Schodde presented the financial goals of the center. The goal is to have the Center included as a line item in the federal budget by 2011. Also the Center has a one million dollar donation that must be matched by January, 2009. The board has launched a drive to raise \$500,000. Ms. Schodde stated the request for funding from the federal government is \$400,000. The Center is requesting \$350,000 this year and another \$350,000 next year from the State of Iowa.

### III. FINAL COMMENTS

Senator Beall noted that he and Senator Boettger have a bill (SSB 1023) allowing schools to count international students in certified enrollment counts for school aid. Senator Beall opened discussion up to any other related issues. Senator Boettger noted that Senator Black has ongoing projects with Taiwan. Representative Roberts pointed out the work that Garst Farms is doing related to building a museum and their connections to international relations.